

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03021 121402Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----121404Z 058149 /42
O 121341Z MAY 77 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3067

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 3021

NODIS CHEROKEE

PASS SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, PLO
SUBJECT: PLO RESERVATION OF ITS POSITION ON REFUGEE
WORDING IN 242

1. ASSAD AND PARTY RETURNED DAMASCUS EVENING MAY 11.
I CONFIRMED WITH DAOUDY ON THEIR ARRIVAL THAT ASSAD HAD
BEEN BRIEFED IN GENEVA ON OUR MESSAGE, SENT TUESDAY THROUGH
EMBASSY BERN, AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION WITH
OTHERS OUTSIDE OFFICIAL SYRIAN PARTY RE CARTER-ASSAD
EXCHANGE ON ABOVE SUBJECT.

2. MET WITH DAOUDY AT 1100 LOCAL THIS MORNING. I
EXPLAINED WE WISHED TO KEEP THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE FROM
BEING CAUGHT UP IN THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS WHICH WOULD
HAPPEN IF NEWS LEAKED. CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN ISRAEL WOULD
TRY TO SHOOT IDEA DOWN AND IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO GIVE
THEM THE AMMUNITION. ADDED THAT YOU WISHED REFLECT FURTHER
ON THE QUESTION OF BROADENING THE CIRCLE OF THOSE ARAB
LEADERS WHO WOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS ITEM IN CARTER-ASSAD
MEETING. SAID WE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH SYRIAN
LEADERSHIP ON LATTER QUESTION IN THE "NEXT WEEK OR SO."

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3. STRESSED THAT IN MEANTIME SYRIANS SHOULD PLAN DISCUSS
CARTER'S IDEA ONLY WITH ARAFAT AND EVEN THAT DISCUSSION
SHOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER ISRAELI ELECTIONS. ARAFAT
SHOULD BE URGED NOT TO DISCUSS IT WITH OTHERS.

4. DAOUDY UNDERTOOK INFORM ASSAD IMMEDIATELY AND SAID
THAT WE COULD COUNT ON TOTAL SYRIAN DISCRETION.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOW LICENSED SYRIAN DISCUSSION WITH ARAFAT ON THIS SUBJECT EFFECTIVE MAY 18. IF YOU DECIDE THAT FOR ANY REASON MORE TIME WILL BE NEEDED ON OUR SIDE, URGE I BE ADVISED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TO MAINTAIN DESIRABLE LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE, I SHOULD ALSO BE IN POSITION TELL SYRIANS IF WE DECIDE TO INFORM OTHER ARAB LEADERS BEFORE DAMASCUS CONTACTS ARAFAT.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, PINR, SY, US, PLO, (CARTER, JIMMY), (ASSAD, HAFIZ)
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